



Oregon State University Bookstore, Inc.  
P.O. Box 489  
Corvallis, OR 97339

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Sara Gesler and the Honorable Dan Rayfield  
Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce and General Government  
Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor  
Oregon State Capital  
900 Court Street NE, Room 453  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Gesler, Representative Rayfield, and Members of the Committees:

We are writing to ask you to oppose an increase in Oregon's minimum wage. Such an increase would have a negative impact on our business, our employees, and the students of Oregon State University.

As a non-profit college bookstore, our mission for over 100 years has been a champion textbook affordability. The OSU Beaver Store now provides some of the lowest textbook prices of any university store in the nation. We use our excess revenues to deeply discount the course materials we sell and rent by over \$1 million annually. The additional costs of a higher minimum wage would either diminish our ability to discount course materials or force us to reduce our staffing and service levels. Either of these choices would negatively impact the students of Oregon State University.

Currently, over half of our hourly employees are paid minimum wage; a minimum wage that is one of the highest in the nation. Our employees making the minimum wage are predominantly OSU students working part time as their class schedules allow. They are not trying to support families with this wage, but are simply trying to gain needed training and experience and help pay for the ever-increasing cost of attending college. There will be fewer of these good jobs available if the minimum wage is increased.

We believe that the minimum wage is indeed a training wage for our young people, and that it's fundamentally important in allowing young people to develop the skills and experience they need to move up into higher-paying positions. We ask that you recognize the necessity of maintaining the current minimum wage as a training wage and vote no on any proposed increases over the current inflation-indexed level.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to provide testimony today.

Sincerely,

Steve Eckrich, CEO